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T H E
P R O P O S A L S
F O R

Printing the English Atlas,

THAT whereas *Moses Pitt* (of *London*, Bookfeller) being Encouraged by His Most Sacred Majesty, his Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, his Highness Prince *Rupert*, both the Universities, the Royal Society, and divers others, the Nobility, Gentry, and Learned men of this Nation, to undertake the Printing of an Accurate Description of the World; and resolving to proceed with all convenient diligence, for the more effectual carrying on thereof, makes these following Offers:

I. He the said *Moses Pitt* having the advantage of making use of divers Plates already Grav'd, but more especially of those of *Jansson's Atlas*, doth design by renewing and regulating divers of them, and by adding many new Plates, together with new Descriptions throughout, to Print a compleat Collection of Maps, Tables, or Delineations of the Heavens, Earth, and Seas, with their several parts, divisions, and names, ancient and modern, in such manner, that all the Maps shall have the same situation of North and South; and all things shall be as exactly and particularly describ'd, as can be done by the help of all the Maps and Delineations already extant in Print, and of as many others as can be procured, of several things and places formerly but imperfectly described; as also of divers late and new discoveries of parts heretofore unknown, or not taken notice of as yet in any Maps.

II. To every Map shall be adjoined an explanation of the most observable matters and histories of the places therein contained; wherein is intended that this Work shall exceed all that have preceded; as also an Alphabetical Index to be added at the end of each Volume, with directions for the speedy finding them in their respective Maps.

III. He will Print the whole Work in as good Paper and Character as any of those already Printed by *Bleau*, *Jansson*, *Sanfon*, or any other.

IV. Whereas the Atlas's of *Bleau* and *Jansson* are usually comprehended in Eleven Volumes in Folio, in all the Languages hitherto; It is intended that this Atlas in the *English* Tongue, shall be printed in Eleven Volumes likewise, each Volume to be sold to the Subscribers at the rate of Forty shillings in Quires. But if those Gentlemen that are concerned in the management of it, shall think fit to contrive it in fewer Volumes, it shall still be at the rate of Forty shillings a Volume; and each Volume both in number of Maps and Descriptions, shall not consist of less than fifty-five sheet Maps and fifty-five printed sheets of Tables and Descriptions, one with the other according to the judgment of the Directors.

V. He doth also promise to deliver to the Subscribers the several Volumes as they shall be compleated and finished, they paying their Forty shillings at the time of their subscribing, which is to be before the four and twentieth day of *July*, 1678; Forty shillings more at the delivery of the First Volume, Forty shillings at the delivery of the Second Volume, and the same sum to be paid upon delivery of each of the other Volumes successively,

only the two last to be deliver'd at twenty shillings a Volume; for which several sums afore-said, the said *Moses Pitt* will give his Receipt under his own Hand and Seal, with two Witnesses thereunto, with an engagement to deliver to the Subscribers or their Assigns, at his Shop in *St. Pauls Church-yard*, they making good their Subscriptions, the several Volumes as they shall be printed, according to the plain meaning of these Proposals.

VI. No Volume shall be sold singly to any Gentleman whatever, except the Subscribers (by the Bookfeller *Moses Pitt*) under Five and fifty shillings in Quires; neither shall any Volume be deliver'd to any person whatsoever, before all the Subscribers have theirs, provided they send for them within one month after notice given in the *Gazette* of the finishing of every Volume.

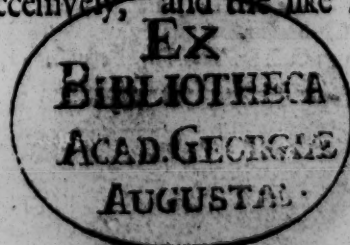
VII. The first Volume begins with the North-Pole, and the places and Countries next unto it, before which is to be added an Introduction to Geography, such as shall be advised by the persons after-named, together with a Map of the Terrestrial Globe, and Maps of the greater Divisions or Parts of the Earth. This Volume is intended to be compleated before the four and twentieth day of the next ensuing *March*. The next Volume designed, is that which contains the *Low Countries* and West part of *Germany*, where hath lately been, and still is the scene of the greatest actions now on foot, intended to be compleated within six months after the said four and twentieth day of *March*. The said time proportionably allow'd for the compleating of all the rest; unless it be judged necessary by the Directors, that a longer time be allow'd for some of the Volumes.

VIII. Whosoever shall subscribe for ten compleat Books, shall for the same price have eleven compleat Books in Quires deliver'd to him.

IX. Because several Gentlemen do complain that they have been deceived by several Proposers in this nature, therefore for the punctual performance of what is here undertaken, the Bookfeller *Moses Pitt*, has already given sufficient Security to Sir *Joseph Williamson*, one of his Majesties Principal Secretaries of State, and President of the *Royal Society*, for performance of his Engagement and Proposals.

X. It is requested, that every Subscriber to this great Undertaking, would be pleased to set down the County and place of his Habitation, together with directions how to send to him, to the end that notice may be given him according as the Work goes forward.

WHereas his most Sacred Majesty has been Graciously pleased, for the promoting of this Design, to permit that his Collections of Maps and Descriptions of Countries may be perused, that such of them as have not yet been published, and are thought proper for this work, may be taken into it; and whereas his Royal Highness, and his Highness Prince *Rupert*, have been also pleased to promise the same favour; and the like has been done by the Right Honorable



nourable Sir *Joseph Williamson*, one of his Majesties Principal Secretaries of State, and President of the Royal Society; and also by the most learned Dr. *Isaac Vossius*, who is pleased to communicate his most copious and exquisite Collections; and it is hoped that the same will be done by several other persons of Honour and Quality; therefore it is humbly desired, that all Gentlemen, who have any particular Maps or Relations of new Discoveries, or any more perfect descriptions of places already known, would be pleased to send the same to the said *Moses Pitt*, who will give sufficient security for the safe return of the same unprejudiced, and if they shall be thought proper (by the persons hereafter mentioned) to be inserted, he will take care that it shall be done, and that the obligation shall be thankfully acknowledged in such manner as shall be to their own best satisfaction.

May 3, 1678.

WE whose names are here subscribed, not doubting but that this Work will be of great Use, and for the Honour of the Nation,

and being desired by *Moses Pitt*, to give him our Assistance, that he may be the better enabled to perform it, do promise that we will from time to time, at spare hours, both give our Advice for the carrying on of the Work; and further, since he offers to refer himself to us in divers of his Proposals, we will observe how he makes them good, and give an account thereof to Sir *Joseph Williamson*, President of the *Royal Society*, or to the President of the said Society for the time being:

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<i>Isaac Vossius.</i>	<i>W. Lloyd.</i>	<i>Rob. Hook.</i>

UPon perusing these preceding Proposals, we whose Names are underwritten, well approving and highly commending this Design of the said *Moses Pitt*, do for his encouragement not only subscribe our selves for one or more Copies of the said Book, but also do recommend so Noble and Useful a Design to the rest of the Nobility and Gentry throughout his Majesties Dominions.

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T H E I N T R O D U C T I O N .

*The In-
tention of
the whole
Work.*



COSMOGRAPHY is a general description of the whole World, consisting of Heaven and Earth: of both which an account is intended to be given in this Atlas; that of the Heavens is reserv'd to a peculiar Volume. It being (as we conceive) of greater necessity, that we begin with that of the Earth. And first of this great Globe in general; the description whereof belongs to *Geography*; as that of particular Regions and Countries is called *Chorography*, which is contained in their peculiar Maps. Nor shall we omit, such *Topographical* descriptions, or the knowledg of lesser places, as Cities, Rivers, Mountains, &c. where advantage may be to the Reader. Now this Globe, which we call of the Earth, consisteth of Land and Water, or Seas; the description of those is properly nam'd *Hydrography*, which sets forth the superficies of the Seas, and mouths of greater Rivers, the Havens, Rocks, Shallows, Creeks, and such other considerations as concern Navigation; to this also an entire Volume in this Edition of an Atlas, is designed. And because that of ancient times, the divisions and boundaries of Kingdoms and Countries were very much divers from those at present; to avoid confusion, which must needs happen by treating in the same place of things so different, it is thought necessary to reserve the ancient Geography to a particular Tome, to be put forth, with the rest, in its due time. Thus you have an account of what is intended in the Edition of this Great Work.

But it is first necessary to explain such terms, and lay such general grounds as are of use thro all the Volumes; which is the subject of this Preface, or Introduction.

*Of the
Globe of
the Earth.*

First then it is to be noted, that the Earth and Water make but one body, the figure whereof is round, and therefore is best and most naturally represented by those we call Globes; tho Maps also, or plain Figures, if carefully drawn, are sufficiently exact. This proposition, tho it might be supposed rationally enough, as now granted by all learned men; yet may it be evidently proved, both from Celestial and Terrestrial appearances; whereof an account and reason may easily be given by this figure, and not by any other. The Sun and the Stars rise sooner to them who live Eastwardly, then they do to us; which could not be if the whole face of the Earth were plain. 2. To those who live

more or less Northward, the Pole is more or less elevated; for those inhabitants of *Iseland*, *Lapland*, &c. who live about a thousand miles more Northward then we do, see the Pole-star fifteen degrees higher then we can. And those, who travel hence towards those Countries, do find that this variation is made gradually, altering about a degree and a half at the end of every hundred miles; which could not be, except the body on which they moved were Spherical. 3. The Shadow which the Earth casteth upon the Moon, when she is partially eclipsed, is seen to be circular; and therefore the body which causes it must be so too. To these we may add, that many Propositions in Astronomy, Geography, and Navigation are founded on this supposition, and when they are applyed to use they prove true, and succeed according to expectation; which certainly they would not always do, if the very foundation upon which they are built, were un-found. The same also is proved by plain sense and experiment, as well as by reason and consequence; for we perceive, that Ships which loose from their Harbours in calm weather, disappear gradually, first their Hulks, then their Sails, and after a few miles their highest Masts; the natural convexity of the water interposing betwixt them and our sight. Several also of our Countrymen and Neighbours have sailed round about this Globe, loosing hence Westwardly, and returning again fromwards the East. From which, and other Navigations, we may conclude, not only that naturally no part of the Ocean is higher then another; but also that we may sail from any part to any part of the superficies of the Ocean; and that every Continent hath Sea about it, and is indeed but a greater Island.

*Of the si-
tuation of
the Earth.*

The controversy about the situation of this Globe, whether it stand still in the midst, and as it were center, of the world, as the ancients generally opined; or whether it move upon its own axis, and about the Sun as the center; besides that it is not so much to our purpose in this as in the Volume of the Heavens, the Maps and Descriptions being the same in both ways, and that the learned are not come to any issue in it, nor have we any thing to add to the common and vulgar probable arguments only, we shall omit.

The parts of this Globe are naturally separated one from another by Seas, ledges of Mountains, Rivers, Defarts, and the like. Which are very opportune for the distinction of Nations, Kingdoms, and Governments.

In the beginning of the Creation, the Waters being lighter then the Earth, accordingly overspread and compassed it to some considerable height;

*Of the
Waters in
this Globe.*